

1. Tighter British Control
2. Colonial Resistance Grows
3. The Road to Lexington and Concord
4. Declaring Independence



1763

Proclamation of 1763 restricts westward expansion.

The Road to Revolution

1763–1776



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What drove the colonists to declare independence from Great Britain?

2

To Lexington and Concord

CONNECT Geography & History

What role did the geography of 18th-century Boston play in the early days of the Revolution?

Think about:

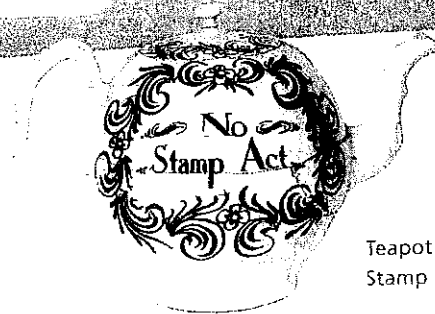
- 1 why it was so difficult to invade the town
- 2 the routes from Boston to Lexington and Concord
- 3 the strategic importance of the surrounding hills



1

The only road connecting Boston to the mainland

King George III



Teapot decorated to protest Stamp Act, 1766


1765 Parliament passes Stamp Act.

Effect Colonists organize boycott of British goods.

1767 Parliament passes Townshend Acts.

Effect Boycott is resumed; political activism spreads.

Battle of Bunker Hill 1775

 [Click here](#) to preview the events that led to the American Revolution
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Charlestown burns during the battle.

3
Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill overlook the town.

harbor

British patrols

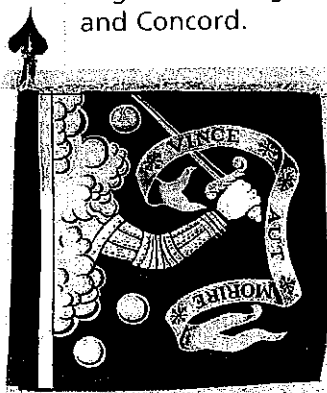
1774 Intolerable Acts are passed.

▼
Effect Colonists organize First Continental Congress.

1773 Parliament passes Act.

▼
Effect Colonists destroy tea in Boston Tea Party.

Bedford, MA militia flag, 1775



1775 Fighting begins at Lexington and Concord.



Massachusetts Minuteman

1776

Declaration of Independence announces American separation from Britain.

SECTION 1

Reading for Understanding

► Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

The British tried to stop colonists from settling on the western frontier.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Colonists saw British efforts to increase control over the colonies as violations of their rights.

► Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

King George III British monarch who reigned during the American Revolution

Quartering Act act requiring the colonists to quarter, or house, British soldiers and provide them with supplies

Sugar Act law placing a tax on sugar, molasses, and other products shipped to the colonies

Stamp Act law requiring all legal and commercial documents to carry an official stamp showing that a tax had been paid

Patrick Henry member of Virginia's House of Burgesses

Sons of Liberty secret society formed to oppose British policies

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

speculate to buy as an investment

boycott refusal to buy

REVIEW

Proclamation of 1763 British proclamation that forbade the colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains

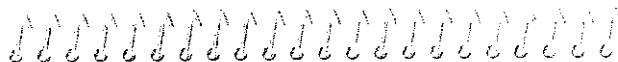


Visual Vocabulary
King George III

► Reading Strategy

Re-create the diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the boxes to record the opposing points of view of Parliament and the American colonists.

See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R8.



COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Parliament

Colonies should help pay for their own defense.

Colonists

Tighter British Control

One American's Story

In 1765 Sally Franklin's father—the famous American diplomat Benjamin Franklin—was in London to protest the Stamp Act. During his stay, Sally Franklin wrote her father long and detailed letters that were filled with news from the colonies. Often she wrote about family and friends, but Sally also had a keen interest in political affairs. In one letter, she vividly described the colonial reaction to the repeal of the Stamp Act:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“We have heard by a round-about way that the Stamp Act is repealed. . . . The bells rung, we had bonfires and one house was illuminated. Indeed I never heard so much noise in my life; the very children seem distracted.”

—Sally Franklin, quoted in *Founding Mothers*



Sally Franklin (Bache)

Similar celebrations occurred throughout the colonies. Many thought the difficulties between Britain and America had finally come to an end.

The Colonies and Britain Grow Apart

KEY QUESTION Why were the colonists threatened by Parliament's new laws?

During the French and Indian War, American colonists helped the British defeat the French. The colonists took pride in the British victory, but soon found that their relationship with Britain had soured. In earlier days, the colonies had been allowed, for the most part, to manage their own affairs. In the 1760s, however, Parliament's new laws and restrictions threatened the colonists' freedom.

Westward Expansion Restricted After the French and Indian War, King George III, the British monarch, issued many reforms to tighten his control of the American colonies. First, he issued the **Proclamation of 1763**,

which forbade the colonists from settling beyond the Appalachian Mountains. Although designed to maintain peace between the colonists and Native Americans, this law angered settlers who hoped to **speculate**, or buy as an investment, in western lands. In addition, King George decided to keep 10,000 soldiers in the colonies to enforce the proclamation. But housing the troops proved very expensive. Therefore, Parliament passed the **Quartering Act**, a law that required colonists to house all British soldiers.

These new laws created great anxiety in the colonies. The colonists feared that Parliament intended to use the troops to control their movements and restrict their freedom.

Parliament Taxes the Colonists In addition to the cost of keeping troops in the colonies, Britain owed massive debts from the French and Indian War. To pay off these debts, Britain needed more revenue, or income. As a result, Parliament looked to the colonies to pay part of the costs for frontier defense and colonial government.

In 1765, Parliament passed the **Sugar Act**. This law placed a tax on sugar, molasses, and other products shipped to the colonies. Making matters worse, in the following year Parliament passed the **Stamp Act**, a law that required all legal and commercial documents to carry an official stamp showing that a tax had been paid. In addition to wills and contracts, all newspapers and diplomas also had to carry a stamp.

From Parliament's perspective, the Sugar and Stamp Acts were reasonable ways to raise money in the colonies to pay off Britain's debt. From the colonist's perspective, however, these acts were seen as serious threats to their political rights. Their anger focused on two complaints: First, that Parliament had no right to tax the colonies—that was a job for the colonial assembly. And second, that no tax should be created without their consent.

🔄 **COMPARE AND CONTRAST** Explain why the colonists disagreed with Parliament.



Under the Stamp Act of 1765, royal stamps such as these were required on legal documents.

Colonists Defy Parliament

🔑 **KEY QUESTION** How did the colonists react when Parliament took over the assemblies' power to tax?

The Stamp Act enraged the colonists. Everywhere people took up the cry "No taxation without representation!" to protest the attack on their rights. **Patrick Henry**, a member of Virginia's House of Burgesses, demanded resistance. When another member shouted that resistance was treason, Henry is said to have replied, "If *this* be treason, make the most of it!"

The Colonists Organize In 1765, delegates from nine colonies formed the Stamp Act Congress in New York. During this meeting, delegates drafted a petition to the king protesting the Stamp Act and declared that the right to tax the colonists belonged to the colonial assemblies, not to Parliament. This was the first time the colonies had united in opposition to British policy.

Meanwhile, some colonists formed secret societies, such as the **Sons of Liberty**, to oppose British policies. Occasionally they encouraged

people to attack customs officials and burn the stamps. As a result, many customs officials quit their jobs and returned to England.

Colonists Threaten British Profits The colonists' complaints against Parliament were bitter, loud, and sometimes violent. But the most effective protest took the form of a **boycott**, a widespread refusal to buy British goods. By refusing to buy goods from England, the colonists targeted British merchants. The colonists hoped that these merchants, faced with declining sales, would influence Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act. Some British politicians sided with the colonists. Parliamentary leader William Pitt spoke out against the Stamp Act:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“The Americans have not acted in all things with prudence and [good] temper. They have been driven to madness by injustice. Will you punish them for the madness you have [caused]? . . . My opinion . . . is that the Stamp Act be repealed absolutely, totally, and immediately.”

—William Pitt, quoted in *Patriots*

The colonists' tactic worked, and Parliament finally repealed the Stamp Act in 1766. But at the same time, Parliament passed the Declaratory Act, which stated that Parliament had supreme authority to govern the colonies. Although the colonists celebrated the repeal of the Stamp Act, the great argument between Parliament and the colonies had just begun.

CAUSES AND EFFECTS Explain how the colonists reacted when Parliament took over the assemblies' power to tax.



(above) During the crisis with Great Britain, colonists often met under the Liberty Tree, a symbol of liberty, individuality, and freedom.



Section Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- King George III
- Stamp Act
- Quartering Act
- Patrick Henry
- Sugar Act
- Sons of Liberty

USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Compare and Contrast** Complete the diagram that you started at the beginning of this section.

| Parliament | Colonists |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Colonies should help pay for their own defense. | |

KEY IDEAS

3. Why did Parliament pass new laws governing the colonies?
4. How did the colonists oppose the new acts?

CRITICAL THINKING

5. **Analyze Point of View** Why would Britain's new laws have convinced Americans that their freedom was under threat?
6. **Connect Economics & History** Why was boycotting British goods an effective way to protest the Stamp Act?
7. **Writing Protest Song** Imagine that you are one of the Sons of Liberty. Write a song protesting Parliament's new laws.



ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to
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